

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1306

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTOR
PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
AND CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS

April 01, 2019

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

We are writing today to urge you to support robust funding of the Urban and Community Forestry Program at the US Forest Service which provides critical assistance to public-private partnerships that address regional climate change challenges by promoting healthy and diverse forests.

Climate change is an imminent threat to trees throughout the Midwest and the world. While the effects of a changing climate are already evident, aggressive action is needed to address future challenges. The Fourth National Climate Assessment was released in November 2018. This report – a collaboration of thirteen federal agencies - highlights the imminent need to protect our nation's forests: "As growing season temperatures rise, reduced tree growth or widespread tree mortality is expected."

Increased planting of trees and better management of forests is critical to addressing climate change. A single large tree can annually reduce 5,400 gallons of storm water runoff and improve air quality by removing 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) is a collaboration of more than 284 Chicago-region partners implementing a strategy to build healthier and more diverse urban forests. This strategy is being developed from *Urban Trees and Forests of the Chicago Region* findings, a regional tree census conducted by The Morton Arboretum and the U.S. Forest Service. Collaborative CRTI partners include federal agencies, seven Chicagoland counties, municipal governments, nonprofit and business community allies. CRTI leverages knowledge, skills, and expertise to build a healthier, more diverse regional forest.

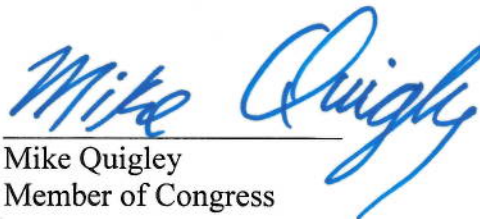
CRTI is the standard bearer for public private partnerships to improve the health, diversity and size of tree canopies. Increased collaborations similar to CRTI will have national, regional and local impacts. We strongly believe that other regions will benefit from using the CRTI model to improve their urban and suburban forests.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you and your staff through the FY 2020 Appropriations process to promote healthy and diverse forests.

Sincerely,



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
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